

REMARKS

Claims 18 to 34 are pending this application of which claims 18 and 28 are independent claims. Further examination is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ewin (U.S. Patent 3,536,842). As shown above, Applicant has amended claim 18 to define the invention more clearly. In view of the amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejection are respectfully requested.

In claim 18, applicant claims a “method for determining a connecting path in a communication network, comprising the steps of: in a first step, determining whether a suitable connecting path to a requested destination node of the communication network is already stored in a second memory; when, in the first step, a suitable, stored connecting path has not yet been identified in the second memory, in a second step determining a suitable connecting path to the requested destination node on the basis of stored network data in a first memory that describe the communication network, and storing the connecting path in the second memory, so that it is available for a new determination of a connecting path in the first step; and in a third step, communicating path information corresponding to the connecting path determined in the first or second steps to network nodes that are a component part of the determined connecting path in order to set up the determined connecting path to the requested destination node.”

Ewin is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 18. In particular, Ewin is not understood to disclose or to suggest at least “determining whether a suitable connecting path to a requested destination node of the communication network is already stored in a second memory” and “when, in the first step, a suitable, stored connecting

path has not yet been identified in the second memory, in a second step determining a suitable connecting path to the requested destination node on the basis of stored network data in a first memory that describe the communication network, and storing the connecting path in the second memory”.

Instead, Ewin teaches storing in a single memory location a history of connections indicating whether a connecting path is a “good” or a “bad” connection. In this regard, the Examiner points to Ewin’s statement that the trunk memory history may be “one of many types of storage devices capable of storing information” as evidence that Ewin uses multiple memory locations (see column 3 line 73 to column 4 line 2 and column 4 lines 51 to 65 of Ewin and page 3 of the Office Action). Applicant disagrees. Ewin merely states that different types of memory storage may be used but not that “many” memories are used.

Furthermore, even if one were to interpret Ewin as describing multiple memories, Ewin does not describe how using multiple memory storage locations determines the connecting path. Furthermore, Ewin does not disclose a first memory having stored network data and a second memory having connecting paths.

The foregoing distinctions are not trivial, but rather represent a significant inventive step, as will be appreciated by those in the telecommunications industry. As disclosed by the Applicant in the specification, the invention seeks to shorten connection times, which is a significant obstacle in today’s communications due to larger bandwidths and faster transmission rates (see page 2 lines 21 to 24 and page 5 lines 14 to 17). Applicant’s invention reduces connection times by first checking a memory to determine that a suitable connection path is stored before checking another memory location for network information. However, Ewin

teaches using a single memory location that stores every single connection and determining the suitable connection path from the single memory. Such a design is time-consuming and impractical in modern telecommunications system. First, each possible connection would have to be recorded which consumes large amounts of memory (see Applicant's specification page 4 lines 10 to 12). Second, each possible connection has to be searched to determine the suitable connection, which consumes time (see Applicant's specification page 4 line 13 to 15).

Claims 19 and 27 to 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ewin in view of Kelly et al. (U.S. Patent 4,862,496). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In claim 28, applicant claims a "switching equipment for determining a connecting path in a communication network, comprising a plurality of line units respectively connected to at least one terminal equipment or to at least one further switching equipment; a first memory for storing network data that describe the communication network; a second memory for storing connecting paths that connect the switching equipment to specific destination switching equipment of the communication network; a control unit that, upon reception of a connection inquiry via one of the line units for a connection to a requested destination switching equipment of the communication network, searches the second memory for a suitable connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment and, when it does not find a suitable connecting path in the second memory, determines a suitable connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment on the basis of the network data stored in the first memory and stores it in the second memory; the control unit, after determining a suitable connecting path stored in the second memory or determining a suitable connecting path based on the network data stored in the first memory, communicates information corresponding to the suitable connecting path via a

corresponding line unit to further switching equipment that are a component part of the suitable connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment in order to set up the connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment.”

Ewin is not understood to disclose or to suggest at least “a first memory for storing network data that describe the communication network; a second memory for storing connecting paths that connect the switching equipment to specific destination switching equipment of the communication network” as discussed above for claim 18.

Furthermore, as the Examiner has indicated, Ewin does not disclose a controller (see page 3 of Office Action). The Examiner has indicated that the Kelly reference makes-up for this deficiency in Ewin. While Kelly discloses a controller, Kelly does not disclose a controller “that, upon reception of a connection inquiry via one of the line units for a connection to a requested destination switching equipment of the communication network, searches the second memory for a suitable connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment and, when it does not find a suitable connecting path in the second memory, determines a suitable connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment on the basis of the network data stored in the first memory and stores it in the second memory.” Rather Kelly describes using a controller to determine a connecting path probabilistically (see column 1 lines 23-38), but not whether the controller uses a first memory or a second memory to determine a suitable path nor does Kelly disclose or suggest that the probabilities are even stored at all. Neither Kelly nor Ewin, separately or in combination, disclose or suggest using a controller with a first memory and second memory as described herein to determine a suitable continuing path. Applicants therefore request that the prior art rejection be withdrawn.

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Since claims 19 to 27 depend on claim 18 and claims 29 to 34 depend on claim 28, these claims should also be allowed for the foregoing reasons.

Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the above address. Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown above.